

*Faculty of Music
University of Toronto*

thursday evening series

**THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM
OF THE ASIA SOCIETY**

MUSIC FROM IRAN

*Concert Hall, Edward Johnson Building
Thursday, October 25, 1973 at 8:30 p.m.*

Rahmatollah Badi'i, kamanche' (bowed fiddle)

Mohammad Esmaili, zarb (drum with animal skin covering)

Khatereh Parvaneh, singer

Faramarz Payvar, santour (72 stringed dulcimer)

**Houshang Zarif, tar (six stringed fretted lute),
setar (four-stringed lute)**

Dastgah Chahargah

4 Gushehs

Houshang Zarif, tar

Persian music is organized into seven dastgahs (primary systems: Shur, Mahour, Segah, Chahargah, Homayoun, Nava, Rast-Panjgah), and five avazs (secondary systems: Afshari, Bayat-e Tork, Abu-Ata, Dashti, and Bayat-e Esfahan). They are based on five scales, each scale consisting of seven notes (these include full tones, semi-tones and quarter tones). In each dastgah there are short and long melodic pieces called gushehs. Each dastgah is thought to have a specific character or mood.

Dastgah Homayun

3 Gushehs

Rahmatollah Badi'i, kamanché

Various Persian Rhythms

Mohammad Esmaili, zarb

Dastgah Mahour

3 Gushehs

Khatereh Parvaneh, singer

Houshang Zarif, setar

Dastgah Shur

2 Gushehs

Chahar Mezrab

Faramarz Payvar, santour

Mohammad Esmaili, zarb

Chahar mezrab is a virtuoso piece in which the performer can show his brilliant technique.

INTERMISSION

Pishdaramad

Dastgah Segah

Traditional

The Ensemble

A performance of Iranian Music consists of five parts, all cast in one dastgah, beginning with the pishdaramad which is a piece for small ensemble with drum accompaniment. It is usually fairly slow and stately.

Vocal Improvisation

Khatereh Parvaneh, singer
Rahmatollah Badi'i, kamanche'

The singer selects gushehs and sings them alone and accompanied by an instrument which echoes each of the phrases, and fills the singer's rests with short improvisations of its own. The performer usually selects poetry from the great classical tradition of Persian literature, and sings long melismatic passages on a vowel. These passages which have a sobbing throbbing sound are regarded by Iranian music lovers as one of the special joys of Persian music.

Chahar Mezrab (Rhythmic Instrumental Improvisation)

Houshang Zarif, tar
Mohammad Esmaili, zarb

Literally translated, chahar mezrab means "four plectra," to indicate the speed with which the musician is playing. A short, quick repeated driving rhythmic figure dominates.

Vocal Improvisation

Khatereh Parvaneh, singer
Faramarz Payvar, santour
Houshang Zarif, tar

Tasnif (composed song)

Traditional

Khatereh Parvaneh, singer
and Ensemble

A fairly slow lyrical song.

Reng (dance piece)

Traditional

Instrumental Ensemble